

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 08934 060719Z

12
ACTION SS-30

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----- 029160
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6503

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS VS
SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN FRASER LETTER ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

REFS: STATE 144492; B) SAIGON 8930

1. I HAD NOT ANSWERED LETTER, TEXT OF WHICH CONVEYED REF B, SINCE I HAD PLANNED TO PASS THROUGH LONDON ON MY WAY TO OR FROM CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MARTIN ENNALS' WISH "...TO MEET AND DISCUSS THE VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES...." WHICH I HAD RAISED. AT SUCH TIME I HAD INTENDED TO CORRECT HIS MIS-APPREHENSIONS REGARDING CLASSIFICATION OF PRISONERS AND ALSO TO CORRECT THE ASSERTION THAT SOUTH VIET-NAM HAD REFUSED A JOINT MISSION TO BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIET-NAM. THIS IS SIMPLY FACTUALLY INCORRECT ALTHOUGH IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT MR. ENNALS WAS NEVER ACCURATELY INFORMED OF THE ACTUAL FACTS BY CONNOR CRUISE O'BRIEN.

2. I HAD ALSO INTENDED ON THAT OCCASION TO INFORM MR. ENNALS OF AS MUCH OF THE FACTS ABOUT THE "INTERNAL AND CONFIDENTIAL APPRAISALS" OF THE COMMUNIST "DISINFORMATION" APPARATUS AS COULD BE REVEALED WITHOUT ANY DANGER OF COMPROMISING SOURCES. I HAD ALSO HOPED TO BE ABLE TO INFORM HIM THAT IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE GVN WOULD BE QUITE WILLING TO HAVE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL VISIT THE PRISONS IN THE RVN IF IT COULD BE PERSUADED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO FIND AN "OBJECTIVE AND IMPARTIAL" OBSERVER. THE GVN HAS NOT

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QUITE ACCEPTED THAT THIS IS A POSSIBILITY. IT MAY CHANGE ITS

ATTITUDE DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE VISITS TO SOUTH VIETNAM PRISONS NOW BEING MADE BY A STAFF MEMBER OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

3. TWO EXAMPLES OF "WHATEVER PROPAGANDA LINE THEY WISH TO PURSUE" COULD BE THEIR ORIGINAL REPORT ON THE 100,000 "POLITICAL PRISONERS" AND THEIR MOST RECENT INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THE 119 SOUTH VIETNAMESE CITIZENS WHO WERE DEPORTED FROM HONG KONG TO THE RVN WHEN THEY WERE APPREHENDED ATTEMPTING ILLEGAL ENTRY TO HONG KONG. HONG KONG AUTHORITIES (AFTER CONFIRMATION BY LONDON), DETERMINED THERE WAS ABSENT ANY ELEMENT OF "POLITICAL ASYLUM" IN THESE CASES.

4. IF DEPARTMENT CHOOSES TO ACCEDE TO FRASER'S REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE, SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REQUEST CIA AND FBI TO KEY ITS COMPUTERS TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THEN PICK AND CHOOSE WHAT IS APPROPRIATE TO BE REVEALED FROM THE GREAT VOLUME OF INFORMATION THAT WILL BE FORTHCOMING. HOWEVER, SINCE MILITARY AID TO VIET-NAM IS NOT COMPREHENDED WITHIN THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE BILL, IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE CONNECTION WITH THE MARK-UP OF THAT BILL BY THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. IT IS PERHAPS UNNECESSARY TO OBSERVE THAT I NEVER REPEAT NEVER SHOOT FROM THE HIP AND THAT NOTHING WOULD HAVE APPEARED IN A LETTER OVER MY SIGNATURE WHICH I HOPED WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC OF WHICH I WAS NOT COMPLETELY CERTAIN OF THE FACTS.

5. IT IS ALSO A MATTER OF SOME SATISFACTION THAT IN AN INTIMATE CONNECTION WITH THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SINCE THE MID-THIRTIES, NO SOURCE HAS EVER BEEN COMPROMISED BY ANY ACTION OF MINE. GIVEN THE INABILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT TO PROTECT THE CONTENT OF MY CABLES I PREFER TO REST WITH THE SUGGESTION IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH WHICH CAN PRODUCE (LIKE THE LITTLE GIRL WHO RETURNED A BOOK TO THE LIBRARIAN SAYING IT CONTAINED MORE ABOUT PENGUINS THAN SHE WISHED TO KNOW) MORE ABOUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THAN YOU WILL NEED OR CARE TO KNOW.

6. IT WILL BE NOTED THAT TONE OF ENNALS' LETTER, REF B, RECOGNIZES POSSIBILITY OF ERROR AND IS DEFENSIVE OF THE LACK OF DEPTH OF ITS RESEARCH WHICH WAS ROUNDLY DENOUNCED BY THE ECONOMIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHEN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON "POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN SVN FIRST ISSUED. I AM INFORMED BY BRITISH ACQUAINTANCES IN LONDON, INCLUDING SOME IN FONOFF, THAT MY LETTER HAD A MOST SOBERING AND BENEFICIAL EFFECT, WHICH I HOPE TO ENHANCE WITH A VISIT TO LONDON. I WELCOME CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S CONCERN BECAUSE I DO DEEPLY BELIEVE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS A VITAL MISSION TO PERFORM. BUT IT CANNOT POSSIBLY BE ACHIEVED UNLESS IT GOES BEYOND AN UNCRITICAL ACCEPTANCE OF

THE FASHIONABLE AND MODISH CONVENTIONAL WISDOM SO CAREFULLY
AND CLEVERLY IMPLANTED BY A MARVELOUSLY ORCHESTRATED, INCREDIBLY
CLEVER PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO A DETAILED SEARCH FOR COLD HARD
DEMONSTRABLE FACT. IT IS HOPED, THEREFORE, THAT DEPARTMENT'S
RESPONSE WILL BE DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT RESULT.
MARTIN

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